

Renovation of Zoological Garden at Nandan Kanan

3849. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for renovation of the Zoological Garden at Nandan Kanan in Orissa;

(b) if so, the fund proposal submitted by the State Government; and

(c) the details of funds sanctioned by Government for the renovation, revival and beautification of Nandan Kanan Zoological Garden?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) After the super cyclone in Orissa, the State Government had sought assistance of Rs. 151.56 lakhs for reconstruction/repair of various animal housing and upkeep facilities in Nandan Kanan Zoo. An amount of Rs. 134 lakhs has been released by the Central Zoo Authority.

Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary

3850. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from Orissa from Government as well as non-Government side, regarding the need to declare the Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary and adjoining areas as a Project Tiger Reserve; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether specific efforts are being made for tiger conservation in the Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary by the Central and State Government;

(c) whether there have been any reports of tiger poisoning in the sanctuary in 2000 and 2001; and

(d) what steps have been taken towards earmarking the area as a Project Tiger Reserve?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Government of Orissa has been making

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requests for creation of Tiger Reserves at Satkosia and Sunabeda, but no formal proposal has been received. Since Government has approved six areas for notification as Tiger Reserves during Ninth Five Year Plan, no new areas can be considered for declaration as Tiger Reserves during the Ninth Five Year Plan period.

(b) The efforts made for protection of tiger and other wildlife in Sunabeda Sanctuary are as follows:

- (i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals including tigers against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
- (ii) Financial and technical help is being extended to the State under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure to provide effective protection to wild animals.
- (iii) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.
- (iv) Ministry of Home Affairs has written to all State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.
- (v) A Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary (Environment and Forests), Government of India for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.
- (vi) A National Conference of Forests and Environment Ministers of State Government was held on 29th and 30th January, 2001. It was resolved to organise existing protection staff into viable formations for effective control of poaching and to create enforcement infrastructure both within and outside protected areas.

(c) Central Government is not aware of any case of poisoning of tiger at Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary.

(d) Question does not arise.